


CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

Office Memorandum

Date: May 22, 1998
To: Lester A. Snow
From: Rick Woodard 
Subject: Support for Environmental Stakeholders

Environmental stakeholders have repeatedly approached Judy Heath and me in connection with the watershed and water quality program elements to ask whether it would be possible for CALFED to provide a minimal level of support for their participation in the process. In most cases, these folks have to take off work in order to attend our meetings, and CALFED functions are already running them ragged. We have been told that even reimbursement for mileage would be a big help to them.

I know this is not a new issue, but I did suggest to Judy within the past few days that she bring the topic up again with our legal advisors. Marian Moe was contacted, and was definite that CALFED can do no such thing. But we are at a critical juncture in the program and we are missing the full involvement of these people. The result will be foregone opportunity to reduce the level of distrust and suspicion about our process and its products. In the spirit of "where there is a will there is a way", we should think about the problem in a broader context.

Could CALFED talk to the urban stakeholders, water contractors, and some business interests to see if there is interest in forming a "foundation" into which contributions could be made by those entities that would enable environmental stakeholders to receive modest reimbursement for their costs of CALFED participation? And, if this mechanism won't work, perhaps we should try to be creative in identifying other approaches to solving the problem.

One other approach would be to hold evening meetings in the locations, such as the Bay Area, where environmental interests are located. This would be very expensive from the standpoint of CALFED staff resources, and would require an increase in staff. But, it is conceivable that we could develop a "road team", separate from the staff developing the program, whose function would be to get around to these interests and provide them with opportunities to be briefed on program status and to get their ideas into the mix. Not only environmental interests would be served by a "road team". Such a team could do a much more thorough job of getting out to the business community and local government as well, not to mention lessening the load on program staff.

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Other public decision processes have been more successful as result of employing such mechanisms. I would be willing to help explore the matter further if you think it is worthwhile. I will be on vacation from May 26 through 29, and will be pleased to follow-up on my return, and I'm sure Judy Heath will also be happy to help.

cc: Stein Buer
Judy Kelly
Judy Heath